FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Youth Protests/ Cockroach Protests

Press Statement by Indian People's Council (IPC)

Date:27 July 2026

The Youth of India Are Not Cockroaches, IPC Stands With the Jantar Mantar Movement

The Indian People's Council (IPC) issues this statement on three connected matters of grave national concern: the remarks of the Chief Justice of India comparing sections of the youth to "cockroaches," the continuing epidemic of examination paper leaks culminating in the NEET-UG 2026 scandal, and the youth-led demonstrations at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, and across the country through June and July 2026.

On the Remarks of the Chief Justice of India

The IPC takes serious note of the remarks made by the Chief Justice of India, which were precieved to be describing all youth to be "cockroaches." We further note the Chief Justice's subsequent clarification that the remark was directed at a specific sub-set of youth to be cockroaches and not at the youth of India at large, whom he described as the pillars of a developed nation.

The IPC accepts this clarification in good faith. However, we place on record our comprehensive and unconditional rejection of the underlying characterisation that any unemployed youth, or any other section of India's youth, however categorised and quantified, may be likened to any insect (which is perceived to be inferior inherently in Indian social zeitgeist). Dignity is not conditional on employment status, professional standing, or manner of political expression (or even criminal status for that matter). The IPC affirms the equal and inviolable dignity of all young Indians, regardless of their employment status or level of economic activity, and holds that language emanating from any high constitutional office must reflect this principle without exception. Failure to do so, may betray true attitudes of those in power.

On the Recurring Examination Paper Leaks and NEET-UG 2026

The IPC takes cognisance of the repeated, recurring leaks of examination papers at state and national levels, most recently in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak. We do not regard this as an isolated blunder or an innocent administrative lapse. We regard it as a grave and offensive abdication of duty by the entire chain of authorities, offices, and personnel responsible for the conduct of these examinations.

We reject outright the framing; if there be any; that these repeated failures are "honest mistakes." The IPC records its own deep and considered suspicion of criminal and corrupt conduct operating throughout the systems entrusted with the integrity of public examinations. The human cost of this corruption is severe and irreversible: the hopes, years of preparation, and futures of millions of Indian students have been decisively and needlessly crushed. We hold this to be an act of institutional cruelty, not misfortune.

On the Jantar Mantar Protests and the Broader Youth Movement

The IPC recognizes the youth and student protests held at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, through June and July 2026 as wholly legitimate and valid. We extend our full endorsement to the grievances raised by the youth of India through this movement, and our unconditional support to their right to a secure, dignified, and prosperous future.

We record our appreciation for every individual, organization, and platform that has helped channel the frustration and anger of India's youth into constructive, disciplined, and productive political expression rather than despair.

The IPC notes the recent developments of 25 July 2026, in which the demonstrations at Jantar Mantar were called off following the resignation of the Union Education Minister and the government's acceptance of the movement's core demands, including compensation for the families of students whose lives were lost in connection with this crisis. We recognize this outcome as a hard-won and legitimate victory for India's youth and reject any idea of compassion by the powerful.

We wish to underline, however, that the conclusion of this particular round of demonstrations is not the conclusion of the IPC's commitment. Our party's dedication to the long-term upliftment of India's youth is permanent. Our engagement will remain earnest, and it will not cease.

On Alleged Police Brutality

The IPC takes special and serious note of allegations of brutality by police and law enforcement personnel against protestors at Jantar Mantar and at solidarity demonstrations elsewhere. We take further and special note of allegations of brutality directed specifically at women demonstrators, which we consider an aggravated form of this misconduct.

We are additionally alarmed by reports that police and enforcement personnel allegedly took steps to conceal or obstruct their own identification during these

operations. If accurate, such conduct is not a mere procedural lapse but a violation of settled Indian law, including:

- The Supreme Court's ruling in *D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal* (1997), which mandates that all police personnel conducting arrests, detentions, or interrogations must bear clear, visible, and accurate identification, name tags, and designations;
- The requirement under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 (previously the CrPC), that an arresting officer must explicitly disclose their identity and the grounds for arrest, following documented procedure;
- Police manual provisions requiring personnel on public order duty under Sections 148–160 of the BNSS to wear standard uniforms, nameplates, and badges even while exercising their authority to disperse unlawful assemblies.

The IPC unequivocally condemns police action against rightful, peaceful demonstrators. We find this conduct alarming, and we place on record our concern that such hostile and anti-people behaviour risks a serious erosion of public legitimacy for the departments and institutions responsible.

On Solidarity Protests Across India

The IPC further recognizes the various state-level protests held in solidarity with the Jantar Mantar movement. We extend our revolutionary salute to the participants of these demonstrations across the country.

Message from the Chairman

I am deeply moved by the youth protests, and I extend my unconditional support to the empowerment and emancipation of India's youth. I confess that I feel unworthy of the title of Chairman of this party, and of the title of political leader, for I could not ready our party in time to stand behind the genuine and legitimate demands of our youth, nor to defend them against the allegedly barbaric violence directed at them by certain entities.

Rest assured — this party stands shoulder to shoulder with you. I have directed our party to build the capacity and the political means necessary to join you physically on the streets, in a sustained and sustainable manner, so that we may finally earn the right to be called your comrades.

Revolutionary greetings, and a fearless forward march to you all.

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